

CHARLES B. RANGEL  
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NEW YORK

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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

July 15, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Cable operators and broadcasters in New York are engaged in complex negotiations to renew existing retransmission consent agreements, some of which are scheduled to expire this summer.

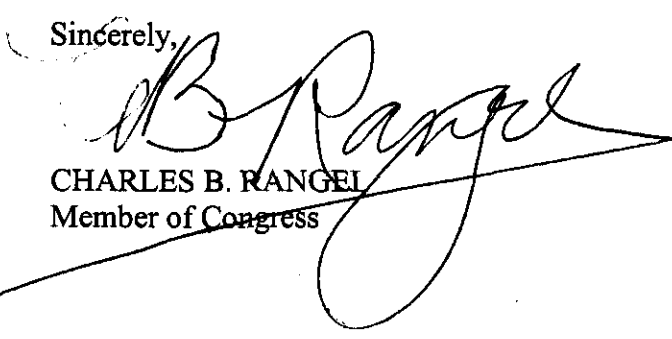
If these agreements are not renewed, programming for many New Yorkers could be dramatically affected. It is not fair to punish consumers for the failure of these companies to reach an agreement, which is why we urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to protect consumers from losing any programming as a result of these negotiations.

The Federal Communications Commission is the expert agency on matters pertaining to broadcast television and, under current law, you have the jurisdiction to review the existing regulatory regime. As such, I urge you to direct a process to review the retransmission consent regime. I am certainly not prejudging any outcome, but I believe that the public would be best served with your review rather than Congress rewriting the law.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue. If we may be of assistance, please feel free to contact our offices.

To find out more that I am doing in Washington and in the District please review my website at [www.rangel.house.gov](http://www.rangel.house.gov)

Sincerely,

  
CHARLES B. RANGEL  
Member of Congress

CBR:jrs

26 JUL 2010 RCUD

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3215  
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PLEASE RESPOND TO OFFICE CHECKED

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

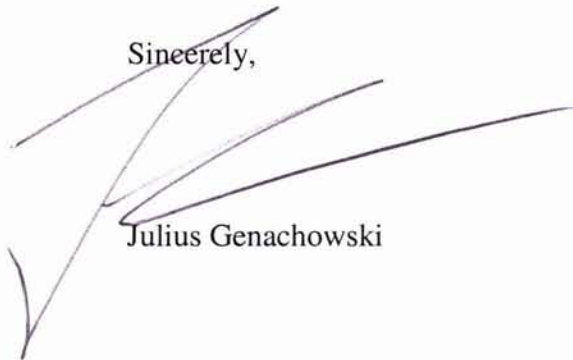
Thank you for your letter concerning the potential negative impact of retransmission consent disputes on your constituents. I share your concern about possible service interruptions caused by stalled negotiations between local broadcast television stations and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). Consumers should not bear the brunt of corporate negotiation problems.

As you may know, a coalition representing a number of MVPDs and public interest groups submitted a *Petition for Rulemaking* to reform the retransmission consent rules. The *Petition* asks that the Commission adopt new mechanisms for mandatory arbitration when MVPDs and broadcasters fail to reach retransmission consent agreements, and require continued carriage of broadcast signals during the negotiation or dispute resolution process. The *Petition* also requests the adoption of rules to change the practice of tying broadcast programming to the carriage of nonbroadcast services.

The Commission's Media Bureau issued a *Public Notice* inviting comment on the issues and proposals discussed in the *Petition*. The comment period recently closed and the Bureau is reviewing the record compiled in the proceeding to develop recommendations for Commission consideration. Given the importance of this matter to a wide range of consumers, we intend to treat this matter seriously.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski